

REMARKS

The Examiner objects to the drawings because they include a reference sign not mentioned in the description, namely 34. The Specification has been amended to include the reference sign and therefore the drawings are now in compliance with 37 CFR Section 1.84(p)(5).

The Specification has been amended to correct the phrases "metal reagent 12" and Group "8B" of the Periodic Table, as suggested by the Examiner.

The claims have been amended to address the various claim objections and Section 112 rejections of the Examiner.

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 7, 15-16, 18-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 3814684A; Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 15-16, 18-21, and 68-69 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vos '093; and Claims 1-2, 5, 11-12, 15-16, 18, and 21 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chowdhury '312.

Applicant traverses the rejections. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent Claim 8. Claim 68 has been amended to require the metal reagent to be selected from the group consisting of metal based elements from Group 1B, Group 2B, Group 4B, Group 4A and combinations thereof of a Periodic Table of Elements. Claims 69-70 have been canceled.

Accordingly, the rejected claims are allowable over the cited references.

The dependent claims provide additional reasons for allowance.

Applicant has added new Claims 71-104 which provide further reasons for allowance. Independent Claim 71 is a combination of original independent Claim 1 and allowable dependent Claim 6; independent Claim 76 of original independent Claim 1 and allowable dependent Claim

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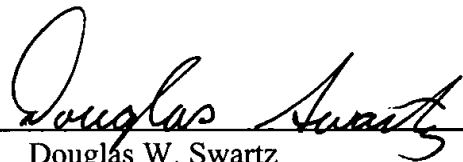
9; independent Claim 77 of original independent Claim 1 and allowable dependent Claim 10; independent Claim 78 of original independent Claim 1, intervening dependent Claim 5, and allowable dependent Claim 13; independent Claim 79 of original independent Claim 1, intervening dependent Claim 5, and allowable dependent Claim 14; independent Claim 79 of original independent Claim 1, intervening dependent Claim 5, and allowable dependent Claim 14; independent Claim 80 of original independent Claim 1, intervening dependent Claim 4, and allowable dependent Claim 23; and independent Claim 81 of original independent Claim 1, intervening dependent Claim 4, and allowable dependent Claim 24.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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